

CHARTON MANOR 1995

THE 'CERTAIN SOUND' OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING

"If the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle."

I Cor 14:8

We are all in the ministry of healing and in this age we need to give a "certain sound". We need to project a certainty that we are sure of our place and purpose in this work. We have to be sure why we are here, and reasoning has to be based upon a clear sense of the vision behind the nursing By-Law in our Manual. An uncertain sound does not stir anyone, it is not responded to and does not really contribute anything to the good of the world. Christian Science nursing is a cultural shock to mortal mind because mortal mind's false nature which makes the physical body a god, is unmasked and destroyed and it doesn't like it.

We cannot afford to be uncertain on any point regarding nursing to any degree. I hope the ideas considered today will aid in enabling us to recognize the certain **essential role** Christian Science nursing has, individually and collectively, in the salvation of all mankind.

We may think that the definition of CS nurse as we know it today, is quite unique, but in fact it is a new/old concept. To the childlike thought within us, it is a new discovery, of more of God's fathomless nature. On the other hand, it is as old as God himself because it is the evidence of His nature as Mother, it is His very being in active expression. In fact, the earliest recording of it is nearly 4,000 years old. "Abraham's concept of 'Almighty God' was as El Shaddai, the Hebrew meaning of God (El) and (Shaddai) The Nourisher, [the root word 'Shad' also meaning a woman's breast], the Strength-Giver, the All-Sufficient One. Expressing the Fatherhood and Motherhood of Deity, as recorded by Abraham in Genesis 17."(1)

The Nourisher, Strength-Giver, All-Sufficient One. What a wonderfully complete sense of God Abraham had. No wonder the false claim of Sarah's barrenness didn't have an option but to disappear in the face of this almighty power. This understanding of God's nature enabled Sarah to give birth to Isaac, the 'child of promise'.

I love this sense of God as The Nourisher, Strength Giver and All-Sufficient One because it reveals Him as a living power. In proportion as this wonderful definition of God's nature is cherished as the very substance of our being, thought becomes more prepared to receive the Child of His promise.

Our awareness of this truth bears out the fact that the more we express these qualities as nurses, the more God fills us up full. Do you remember the minister who saw himself as a coffee pot, and the more he poured out, the more God poured into the pot. As long as he kept pouring, the pot was always full.

Individual Ministry

The mandate for each one of us given by the far-seeing, visionary By-Law in the Manual regarding the nurse, is that we prepare the way for the appearing of the Christ child. It is the nursing qualities recognized and lived that will be an essential aid in this preparation. I believe that obedience to this By-Law is a necessary starting point in our demonstration, which will be the saviour of our church and ultimately mankind.

Chapter Practice. Within 7 pages, 50 qualities include hope, compassion, love, forgiveness, goodness, purity, each of which are required in preparation for healing. Also, 30 negative qualities which, when indulged, do not allow our preparation for practice to progress. Our textbook prepares thought before any technique is mentioned.

Your individual nursing career is your practice and when you are guided by God no element of chance has any sway in the path forward. The human consciousness may give many diverse reasons why you are here but the Father requires us to follow the leading of Truth and rejoice. His Christ is forever reaching out for the cradle consciousness of purity,

innocence, teachableness, humility and meekness which will readily hear and obey when He calls.

It is your practice, your ministry and your example of the way you live as nurses which is **showing humanity how to live**. Through the perfect balance of discipline and love, of listening and obedience, God knows he can call upon those near to Him. Your practice and ministry needs all the protection possible. Why? Because I am sure you are aware that one of the primal needs of the world is to bear witness to and feel the ever-presence of God's motherhood, the very substance of your work. You as nurses in the public ministry are in the forefront, pioneering this 'hopelessly original' form of progressive living (as our Leader calls it). The carnal mind doesn't like it because in the course of our work its fictitious empty claim to life is being uncovered and exposed. None of us can afford to ever neglect obedience to Art 8 Sect 6 Manual. These few words cover the whole ground and our progress depends upon our obedience to it.

Each of you are so precious to God. Just as we adore Him, we need to know He **adores us too**. The **mighty spiritual force** of His love and care is the very substance and origin of our being. Our knowing God in this way keeps consciousness wide open, permitting the Christ, Truth to assert itself within the realm of our thought. It does so in two ways. 1) It constantly speaks to us of the whole man as our true selfhood. 2) It also uncovers whatever is unlike good within consciousness that needs correction, brings it into the open to be silenced and destroyed.

Child to be born.

A very simple statement in a poem by D Peel (Selected poems 97) has helped me to develop in some degree my understanding of what the mandate of nursing is all about. It simply **says "The Child to be born found Mary waiting for him."** When I first read it, it lit up for me. 'The Child to be born,' seeing this Child as the Christ Child who is already born to God. This Christ Child is every man's true selfhood waiting to be born within each individuals consciousness. Then the verse says 'found Mary waiting for him.' The child, the Christ child, was looking for Mary, looking for the innocence and purity which she

represented as the cradle-consciousness ready to receive Him. **Mary fit that requirement.** Luke records Mary's prayer to God and it is evident she was fully aware sense of Him as The Nourisher, Strength Giver and All-Sufficient One, who would meet every need for the appearing of the child. Mary acknowledged God as her Saviour, as 'he that is Mighty', as He that 'has showed strength with his arm' and 'filled the hungry with good things'. Only purity and absolute meekness could be so fully aware of God's presence in this way. The Christ Child had found Mary who fulfilled prophesy, and her expression of the nursing qualities meant she was ready to receive the child.

Do you see yourself as a **Mary** when you have been inspired? In this state of meekness and humility we are all Mary's. The Manual mandate speaking to us all through the Nursing By-Law requires us to be Mary's. It is interesting that Mrs Eddy's name was Mary, too, and the Christ also found her waiting for him. Let's just look at how she nursed, nurtured and healed her patients by permitting God, the Nourisher, to perform His work in the very clear healing of Mr Clark described in S/H 192. Because this healing takes place in what is called the sick room, I feel it is fitting for us to explore in more detail.

Mr Clark

The medical doctor in attendance had just probed the ulcer on the hip and the condition of the bone, and decided there was nothing to be done. She then says four words which are so relevant. **'The doctor went out.'** Materia medica had given up the case. She then says the patient was near death. Then again five words with all the God-power behind them. **'I went to his bedside.'** The 'I' being divine Mind was allowed full sway in the situation. Mrs Eddy did not start probing as to the man's moral character faults or deficiencies, but just healed him. Neither did Jesus, when he healed, self-righteously probe the patient's character, he told us to 'Judge righteous judgement.' He healed his patient and in a number of cases told them to go and sin no more, meaning not to go back to the old way of thinking.

This is a lesson for us, and I realize that demanding moral regeneration in any degree **before healing is possible**, is an element of scholastic theological teaching based on the lie that man is a sinner. As much as it would seem there has to be moral regeneration, the patient will come to it through healing. In Rud 2 Mrs Eddy say's, "Healing physical sickness is the smallest part of Christian Science. It is only the **bugle-call to thought and action** in the higher range of infinite Goodness. The emphatic purpose of C/S is the healing of sin." Our work is not to see the patient as a sinner. This is not Christian Science treatment, **man is whole, innocent and sinless**. Christ is present within each individual consciousness as the fan seperating th false from the true, "...making mankind better physically, morally, and spiritually." Our work is always to separate the sin from man. "Make the separation"

Back to Mr Clark. **The doctor went out**, there was no opposing thought to obstruct the certainty of the treatment. Animal magnetism would have been dealt with long before she even arrived at the house. **This is why the doctor went out**. She would have unmasked it's fictitious claim on man, that there was no longer a false mortal view of man for animal magnetism to identify itself with. She was not fooled regarding the centuries old lie claiming life was in matter. Spirit alone was the reality to her thought.

Very soon Mr Clark's face changed and he was quietly sleeping. In about ten minutes he opened his eyes and declared that he felt like a new man and that his suffering had all gone. Just think, not a patched up or rejuvenate old man, facing a long recuperation period, but a **new man**. Paul demands that we "put off the old man with his deeds and ... put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:". It is recorded that Mrs Eddy said, "You must get rid of the old man, the old woman. You cannot make them better and keep them. You are not getting rid of the old man if you try to make him better. If you should succeed in making him better, he would stay with you. If you patch up the old man and say it is good enough, you do not put it off but keep it. If you try to make the old man satisfactory, you are preparing to keep it, not to put it off."

In the paragraph following this healing, Mrs Eddy 's absolute faith in the supreme healing power of Spirit is evident when she says, reviewing this brief experience, that "... **the might of omnipotent Spirit shares not its strength with matter or with human will.**"

There are so many important aspects of treatment in this healing and is well worth considering it in greater depth. It always interests me that in Mrs Eddy's healings, very little if any conversation is mentioned. In the Court Case in Science & Health, she illustrates how the process goes on totally in consciousness. Not a word is spoken, but the mental arguments resulted in **mortal man being saved and mortal mind destroyed!** Her practice all took place within the mental sanctuary, communing with God, as she describes in a poem, "Christ's silent healing, heaven heard."

How do we know the patient will respond to either absent or present treatment? Because there is no absence in God's presence. Divine Mind 'governs the body' **because divine Mind is demonstrated right where the body is.** When the practitioner prays for a patient who is either absent or present, the treatment is actually present, because **the Mind upon which it is dependent is present.** The same Mind which the practitioner is communing with is the Mind of the patient, and God's all-embracing compassion reaches every listening heart and mind, and blesses even those who are not listening. This is why we do not doubt the treatment based on the spirit of Love.

The discipline of no recording, rehearsing, analyzing physiology or mentally probing character, keeps the situation, "caught up to God. '**Within the Allness of Spirit**', no mental domination can hide behind the fictitious law of medical science with its fake promises of the perfect cure tomorrow. Nor can scholastic theology with its promises of salvation as being only possible in the future, and put off the expectancy of healing today. Man is not a failure with no hope. Christ the friend of mortal man is always present to open wide the prison doors and set the captive free, revealing his original innocence.

Every day we need the certain sound of spiritual dominion to challenge the uncertain claims of mortal mind without fear. Speaking with firmness to mortal mind cannot harm man, and this is illustrated in the following incident.

Mrs Eddy's Maid

It is related that Mrs Eddy's maid came into her one morning with her breakfast tray. Mrs Eddy looked at her and very firmly said to her, "Drop that tray!" The maid clung to it more firmly than ever. Mrs Eddy said again with no letup in her voice, "Drop that tray!!" The maid shocked at Mrs Eddy's vehemence, dropped it, and then Mrs Eddy said to her, "That was healed last night. Let it go!"

What point was Mrs Eddy making in this incident? Treatment had been given but her maid had not accepted the power of Truth as the mandate of God to assert itself over the false belief. The maid was still clinging onto the false belief, believing it to be true. Mrs Eddy clearly thought it was necessary to shock mortal mind in that dramatic way. Mortal man alias m/mind needed shaking to show that full faith in the treatment meant its demise. Mortal mind is never personal, but the Word demands obedience. God's love for man will not allow us to go on in ignorance. Both in the Practice and in nursing we need to know man is obedient, receptive and responsive to God and His Christ. If we are seeing disobedience, unresponsiveness or lack of receptivity it is we who are sinning! If there is doubt we are listening to mixed messages and not the right voice.

Listening

A young boy visiting Manhattan was walking down the main shopping street in the midst of the general noise of traffic. What do you think he heard? A cricket! You see his senses had been trained to the sounds of the countryside. He was probably the only one who heard it. Julia Michael Johnson When asked by the press in the early 1900's what the world's greatest need was, she answered, "That's easy! To learn to listen. Listening is revelation. Not listening is revolution." Revelation will show us fresh new ways to approach the situation at hand. Revolution will be evidenced as a cycle or repetition of the same old way, because thought is closed to anything new.

Charton Manor

Mrs Eddy in 12 Years, 156, says, "Home is not a place but a power. We find home when we arrive at the full understanding of God. Home! Think of it! Where sense has no claims and Soul satisfies."

Thinking of 'Charton Manor', Home is not a place, home is a power, a state of thought, then Charton Manor represents the opportunity for man to demonstrate his spiritual capacity, to prove his God-given dominion. Dominion over what? The limited human concept would have us believe it is over evil. That is the effect which the human mind views. Genesis one tells us we have been given dominion over the earth and all that therein is, but the earth is not something outside of ourselves. We have been given dominion to think and reason rightly. Dominion over every spiritual quality already inherent within us.

Charton Manor offers the opportunity to be still and allow Mind to reflect upon himself, which is evidenced as man knowing himself as God is knowing him. A **place** can never give us that opportunity, but the substance of your love for man, is the attraction to those who are desiring spiritual regeneration. 'Where sense has no claims and Soul satisfies.' Mrs Eddy say's S/H 89 "The influence or action of Soul confers a freedom..." Soul does not confer a freedom because of something. Freedom is the very nature and substance of the body or reflection of Soul itself.

Moving with the highest vision

"Within the context of nursing, we have been challenged to seek the true idea nursing represents with **our farthest vision**. God as The Nourisher works with us directly to bring this to pass individually and collectively.

Nursing is such a vast subject when viewed from its source and I love the calling to us all to discover who we are through the nursing qualities within. But however much we feel we know about those qualities, however much we endeavour to live those qualities, unless we have a clear understanding of the nothingness of evil our work is in vain. We need to

defend this precious activity. We need to see that it is caught up to God and it is the path which Proverbs relates, 'the vulture's eye hath not seen.'

We need to be sure we know that evil is a nothing, neither mind nor matter. It has no voice, therefore I often say to it, "I will not complain or scream for you." It is not mind, therefore I will not be mesmerised into excusing or producing its lies for it. Evil has no body and I will not bow down to its fictitious lie and try to doctor it, prolong it, beautify or change its illusive form in any way. I refuse to give it a body. It can only suggest these things to thought, hiding behind the mask of mind in matter and hope we believe it. If we do, we do its work for it. A good nursing ministry is always awake.

Self Government

The patient, practitioner and nurse relationship, is something very special. In 'Christ and Christmas' there is the picture, 'Christian Science Healing.' It pictures the sick room with the patient in bed, the practitioner holding the patient's hand, and with (it could be said) the nurse standing guard in the background, praying. The significant point is that there is a star shining brightly down enfolding the whole scene. The patient, practitioner and nurse are not in the dark but all within the light. This light represents the presence of the healing Christ. The text it portrays concludes, 'And aye with grace towards you and me, For health makes room.' Do you recall earlier I referred to another text in Christ and Christmas where the text is, **"Christ's silent healing, heaven heard."** I find this so encouraging. This impersonal power of the Christ silently at work revealing the whole man to individual consciousness.

The nurse, practitioner and patient are three distinct but indivisible activities of the Christ and never competing with or leaning upon each other. It is so important to be clear that, whatever problem is being worked through, each individual is responsible to God alone. S&H "Reflecting God's government man is self governed."

Each has to turn unreservedly to the Father and bear witness to Christ's assurance of man's total conformity to God's will alone. This alone brings the quick, clear results our healing

practice demands, and the world needs to witness. Protect yourselves from any false sense of responsibility which would through ignorance be put upon you. Just think of the certain results - if each one, the nurse, practitioner and patient permitted God The Nourisher, Strengtheners and Supplier to be at the bedside.

Christian Science nursing is not competing

C/S/Nursing is based totally outside the dream. It is not only the highest form of nursing there is, but **it is the highest expression of living**. It is not in competition with any other form of care, when practised selflessly it purifies and refines everything it comes in contact with. I am convinced that when C/S/N is fully understood through obedience to the Manual By-Law and is effectively practised, Christian Science nursing will be seen as the pace-setter, not only for the whole of the nursing profession, even orthodox nursing, not only for every church member, but for all mankind.

"Your individual nursing demonstration and unfoldment comes from within, never from without. It is the invisible brought into visibility. It is heaven and earth approving, as one. It is then essential that you do not measure your progress from outside of yourself. The tenderness of this mighty spiritual force at work within you is the Living God, divine Love in active expression and mankind desperately needs your example.

My message to you today is that we have the greatest treasure the world has ever, and will ever know. Our love for the ministry of nursing, nurturing and witnessing of this Christ idea as man's true selfhood is the 'certain sound' which mankind is looking for. The compassionate love of God evidenced through the nursing qualities is being felt, is healing and providing a model in this age of the right way to live. I thank each one of you for dedicating your life to this ministry of love in active expression. Do not level off in your demonstration - there is no stopping place - God is unfolding the way. My 348

Benediction: God's promise to each one of you is:

Hosea 2: 19 "I will betroth thee unto me forever."